

**STOP HIS
BRITISH
VISIT** >>Page 20



**NO TO NAZI
DEMO**

Sat 14 July, London
>>Pages 4&5



Socialist Worker

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**WIGAN HEALTH FIGHT
SHOWS THE WAY...**

**STRIKES
CAN SAVE
THE NHS**



Join NHS protest in central London this Saturday >>Pages 10&11

ITALY

Inside the Italian state's war on Roma people

ITALIAN POLICE used crow bars to smash the windows of mobile homes at the River Village camp at dawn last Thursday.

It's part of interior minister Matteo Salvini's plan to draw up a list of Italy's 180,000 Roma. Simon Baskett spoke to activists resisting the clampdown.

>>Pages 14&15

FAR RIGHT

**Will everything
be all right for
racist Ukip?**

SUPPORTERS OF Nazi Tommy Robinson are fighting over the corpse of Ukip in the hope of resurrecting it as the party of the British far right.

Paul Joseph Watson of InfoWars has joined Ukip to "take it over in a soft coup". If successful, it could take Ukip in a different direction.

>>Page 17

ENVIRONMENT

Hypocrites vote for Heathrow expansion

EXPANSION PLANS for London Heathrow Airport are one step closer to becoming reality after MPs voted to build a third runway.

Tories whipped their MPs to vote for the plans. And Labour allowed its MPs a free vote.

>>Page 7



THE THINGS THEY SAY

'I will lie down with you in front of bulldozers and stop the construction of that third runway'

Tory foreign secretary Boris Johnson to shadow chancellor John McDonnell in 2015

'You can't rely on a word he says'

Unnamed Tory on Johnson's absence from a vote on the runway in parliament this week

'I really don't care, do u?'

The message on Melania Trump's coat—as she visited child migrants caged in the US

'I'd like to ask how I can help these children reunite with their families'

Melania to shelter workers. Perhaps stop separating them in the first place?

'We might have to celebrate with water'

Ross Clark in the Daily Mail on how to celebrate an England World Cup victory with a lack of CO2 for beer

'While the Germans drown their sorrows with lager'

The nightmare continues for Clark



Did selling off fire safety training worsen Grenfell Tower disaster?

DID PRIVATISATION of essential safety services play a role in the Grenfell Tower fire disaster?

In 2012 the London Fire Brigade (LFB) outsourced its training to Babcock International.

Guidelines for training over fire evacuation procedures were issued in 2014, as a direct result of an inquest into the Lakanal House fire.

The coroner who carried out the inquest wrote to the Department of Communities and Local Government in 2014, "Not all high-rise residential buildings are designed or have been

maintained to have a 'stay put' policy in place."

There is no evidence yet that this was implemented by Babcock

International. One "expert" witness to the Grenfell Tower fire inquiry noted in their submission that the order to evacuate the tower did not come until 2.47am.

The compartmentation, which is supposed to restrict the spread of fire and which the "stay put" policy is based on, had begun to fail at 1.15am.

The expert argued that evacuation should have begun earlier.

The Lakanal coroner also advised that sprinklers should be retro-fitted into

older tower blocks. The Tories ignored that.

Lawyers representing survivors of the fire and the bereaved said, "No one from the LFB commissioner down appears to have trained or planned for this type of fire.

Suggests

"This strongly suggests that Babcock did not properly place the issue on the training curriculum, but we are yet to see the training materials."

The FBU and other unions warned about the consequences of training privatisation in 2011.

"The rushed drive to push through these privatisations will put Londoner safety in jeopardy", said a statement at the time.

They were tragically proved right.

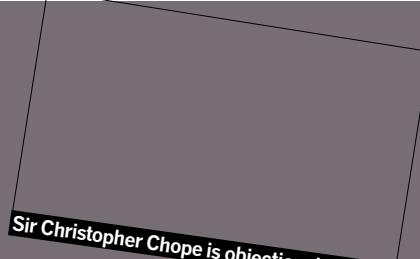


Firefighters joined events to mark the one-year anniversary of the fire

TORY DINOSAUR Sir Christopher Chope has had a taste of his own medicine.

Chope tried to kill off a private members' bill outlawing upskirting by calling, "Object".

One of his own bills came before a Whitehall adviser last week. She took delight in writing in large block capitals, "OBJECT!"



SERCO HAS repaid the Tories over £4 million for its failures in managing jails since April 2010.

The figures came days after Tory MP Edward Argar, who was a Serco fat cat until 2014, was appointed as a justice minister.

Tory tax cut handed £11 billion to the rich

A TORY tax cut for millionaires has handed £11 billion to the rich, according to the Unison union.

Former chancellor George Osborne cut the top rate of income tax six years ago.

It meant people "earning" a million a year would pay 45p for every pound instead of 50p.

Unison said the money this gave the rich could have paid for 30,000 nurses and 20,000 teachers every year for five years.

And because it costed in funding 15,000 more cops and 10,000 more police support officers, the real number of nurses and teachers is even higher.

THE Child Poverty Action Group says a quarter of children in Dundee live in poverty.

And teachers often give children food at school because they haven't eaten any breakfast.

Daily Mail columnist Jan Moir happily seized on the figures to attack parents.

"If children are coming to school without breakfast, then that is child neglect, it is not child poverty," she railed.

'It's political correctness gone mad'—apparently

THE ONE-year anniversary of the Finsbury Park mosque attack took place last week.

A van attack killed one Muslim and injured ten others. It doesn't seem unreasonable to commemorate the attack.

But Daily Mail columnist Richard Littlejohn had other ideas.

He raged against alleged "attempts to coerce others to pay their respects" last week after claiming that an announcement

was made in a Tesco store for people to observe a minute's silence. "Needless to say, no one took any notice," Littlejohn gloated.

LITTLEJOHN also found space to have a dig at trans people.

Zookeepers in Bristol have discovered that a six year old gorilla they thought was male is female.

"Has the trans madness spread to the animal kingdom?" Littlejohn asked.

Sun's shock at upskirting is rank hypocrisy

THE SUN newspaper last week railed against "perverts" taking upskirting images and videos.

A "Sun probe" found dozens of people uploading images to social media sites such as Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

The paper was praised by Theresa May for its investigative efforts.

"The images uncovered by The Sun are deeply disturbing and underline why strong action is so

The Sun—defender of women

important," she said.

Of course the Sun didn't need to trawl other sites to find the images. It could have just looked through a few back issues.

The Sun is quite keen to publicise women "flashing their knickers".

Of course they aren't "flashing" anything—just sitting down or getting out of cars.

But that doesn't stop photographers taking pictures up their skirts—or the Sun from publishing them.

Loadsa room—if you're a royal

THE ROYALS are getting a £24 million two-storey basement at Kensington Palace—despite it breaking the rules.

Local planning law bans two-storey basements in the borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

But the council approved the Palace expansion, claiming it will be of "economic benefit" to the nation.

In the same borough, some victims of the Grenfell Tower fire remain homeless and in temporary accommodation one year on.

But at least prince William and Kate will have even more room to hoard their wealth and possessions.

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Back this crucial strike to stop NHS privatisation

AS TENS of thousands of people from across Britain prepare to come to London this weekend and demonstrate for the NHS, health workers are readying themselves for more strikes.

Hospital porters, cleaners and support staff in Wigan were set to begin a five-day strike on Thursday this week. It marks a serious escalation in their fight against bosses' plans to outsource 900 jobs.

Edmund is a Unison union member in Wigan. "We can't wait for the five-day strike," he told Socialist Worker. "The mood is really good."

"We're all determined to win and stay in the NHS."

Bosses at Whittington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust want to outsource jobs to WWL Solutions Ltd.

It is one of a growing number of wholly-owned subsidiaries in NHS England (see pages 10&11).

While owned by the NHS trust—for the meantime—workers would no longer be on the NHS pay roll.

This means bosses could, in the future, slash their wages and terms and conditions and hire new starters on worse contracts.

There are rumours of discussions between unions and management about keeping the services in-house—but at a terrible cost of job losses and worse conditions.

Blackmail

That's blackmail, and will hit both the NHS and workers' lives.

There is no need for the unions to agree to a shoddy deal.

Solidarity has been pouring in to the Wigan fight from across the labour movement.

"We hear at strike committee meetings about the support we're getting in," said Edmund.

"Everyone is really overwhelmed by it."

"I heard we've had £5,000 from one donation."



'WE'RE STAYING in the NHS,' say Wigan strikers

PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

You can help

Send messages of solidarity to jean.heyes@wwl.nhs.uk
Make cheques out to WWL Unison Welfare and send to Unison Office, Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan Lane, Wigan, WN1 2NN

Strikers were given a standing ovation and donations at the Unison union national conference in Brighton last week.

And workers were joined by Labour MP Yvonne Fovargue in Wigan town centre on Saturday as they collected money for their hardship fund.

Bosses were set to decide on their

next steps at a board meeting on Wednesday.

Edmund explained, "The board meeting will decide if they still want to put us into a wholly-owned subsidiary or listen to the workforce.

"If they backed off we wouldn't be striking, but I know how hard-faced they are."

He added, "They don't want to save money—they want to make money."

Unite union members were set to walkout separately on Wednesday—as well as for five days from Thursday.

Edmund said, "Us Unison members are going to go out on break times to support them. We've all got to stick together."

Unite wants to maximise turnout

at the lobby of the board meeting but is not asking Unison to respect its picket lines.

However, picket lines aren't just another form of protest.

They are organised so strikers can argue with colleagues and other groups of workers not to go into work or to make deliveries in order to maximise the impact of strikes.

Workers' resistance has already forced back the implantation date from 1 April to 1 August—and they are set on winning.

As Edmund said, "Everyone is more determined than ever. If five days don't work, we will go to seven days."

Every trade unionist needs to build solidarity for their crucial fight.

Edmund's name has been changed

IN BRIEF

Activists stop Grenfell firm

BOSSES AT Whittington Hospital in north London have indicated they are now unlikely to sign a contract with a firm tied up in the Grenfell Tower fire.

They initially awarded Ryhurst a regeneration contract. It is a subsidiary of the Rydon Group, which supplied the flammable cladding for Grenfell.

The Defend the Whittington Hospital Coalition has campaigned against it since October.

Chair Shirley Franklin said the group "would go to the streets" if the company tried to hit back by suing.

Branson robs £2m from NHS

CONVICTED fraudster Richard Branson has successfully sued the NHS for another £2 million.

The Virgin boss took the NHS to court after losing out on an £82 million contract to provide children's healthcare services in Surrey.

Did you know 'Vince Miller'?

A POLICE officer using the cover name Vince Miller was active in the International Socialists and the Socialist Workers Party from 1976-9.

The information has been revealed in the official inquiry into the activities of undercover police officers.

Did you know "Vince Miller" or do you have any information about him?

If so please contact charlie@swp.org.uk or phone the party's national office on 020 7840 5600 and ask for Charlie Kimber.

ON THE WEB

Top five hits this week on www.socialistworker.co.uk

- 1 Unison union conference sees revolt against leadership
- 2 Is everything going to be all right for racist Ukip?
- 3 It's time to burst the bubble of capitalism
- 4 2,500 racists march through London in a display of far right unity
- 5 Italy's war on Roma

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Racist demo is one more sign of the threat from the far right

A MARCH of 2,500 racists in London last Saturday underlined the need to build opposition on the streets to the resurgent far right.

The crowd chanted, "Whose streets, our streets" as it marched from Victoria station to parliament.

And a big focus on the march was jailed Nazi Tommy Robinson—whose supporters organised a 15,000-strong rally on Whitehall on 9 June.

The march broke into spontaneous chants of "Oh, Tommy, Tommy" and "We want our country back".

It was organised by the Democratic Football Lads Alliance (DFLA) and a host of other racist groups.

The DFLA has become a bridge between the fascists and the racist UKip party (see page 17).

UKip flags were one of the most visible elements on the demonstration—much more than on previous mobilisations in recent months.

It confirmed that UKip's leadership is looking to the far right in the hope of rebuilding after the party's wipe-out in the local elections in May.

UKip leader Gerrard Batten told the rally, "You have to join a political party, help fight elections and win power."

While Batten's aim is to rebuild UKip as an electoral force, alt-right figures with a broader agenda are joining.

Imitate

There were fewer hardcore Nazis on Saturday's DFLA march than were on a "Free Tommy" rally in central London earlier this month—but they were welcomed.

There was a sizeable contingent of members of Generation Identity—a young group that tries to imitate the US alt right.

One of the hardest speeches on the rally came from former UKip MEP Janice Atkinson, who openly appealed to antisemitic conspiracy theories and tropes.

Atkinson is positioning herself as a link with the European far right inside the "Free Tommy" movement. The racists are now focussing

BACK STORY

Nazis, racists and the far right have held big demonstrations

- Some 2,500 people marched with the racist Democratic Football Lads Alliance last Saturday

- It came just two weeks after 15,000 people marched calling for the release of Tommy Robinson, the jailed Nazi

- Anti-fascists are organising urgently to oppose another march in London on Saturday 14 July



A MARCHER calls for the release of Nazi Tommy Robinson

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Anti-racists hold urgent city-wide rallies to build the resistance

ANTI-RACISTS RALLIED

last Saturday at Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) meetings in London and Manchester to continue building opposition to Donald Trump and the Nazis who love him.

It was launched with Labour shadow ministers Diane Abbott and John McDonnell, and the leaders of all the major unions last week.

Activists joined a meeting at the East London Muslim Centre in Tower Hamlets on Monday night to discuss building opposition to the far right.

Speaking at the SUTR meeting Labour's shadow home secretary Diane Abbott slammed the Tories' "hostile environment" policy towards migrants. "It is the nature of our immigration system for this to happen to all kinds of migrants," she said.

"I agree with it less than ever today as I watch the terrifying rise of the far right—not just in this country but on our European doorstep."

At the London meeting Weyman Bennett from SUTR urged people to join the protests against Trump and the fascists. "When Trump comes everyone has to be out," he said. "He is a sexist bigot, has called African countries 'shithole counties' and he is a racist."

"On that demonstration it wasn't just the Democratic Football Lads Alliance," he said. "There were fascists and UKip. Anti-racists have to use growing support to get colleagues, classmates and friends onto the streets to oppose the Nazis on 14 July."



On the DLFA march on Saturday

trade union sisters and brothers" and others "who came out to join us when Tommy Robinson tried to launch his book in my constituency".

"We said we don't want your Islamophobic, far right hatred here and we drove him out of town," she said.

Green spoke out against those who argue that the threat of the far right will simply disappear. "I don't agree with that view," she said.

"I agree with it less than ever today as I watch the terrifying rise of the far right—not just in this country but on our European doorstep."

At the London meeting Weyman Bennett from SUTR urged people to join the protests against Trump and the fascists. "When Trump comes everyone has to be out," he said. "He is a sexist bigot, has called African countries 'shithole counties' and he is a racist."

"We have to come out on 13 and 14 July. When fascists march on the streets, you have to act."



Kamil Ahmad

Murdered Iraqi refugee 'could have been saved'

THE BROTHER of murdered refugee Kamil Ahmad has said his "life could have been saved if just one of the organisations involved had protected him from racism".

Kamaran Ali's statement came after Bristol Safeguarding Adults Board published a report last week that found Kamil's death was avoidable.

Iraqi Kurdish refugee Kamil was murdered by Jeffrey Barry in Bristol on 7 July 2016.

Kamaran said,

"This report confirms

our worst fears

that Kamil's life

could have been

saved if just one of

the organisations

involved had

protected him from

racism".

The report singled

out Avon and

Wiltshire Mental

Health Partnership

NHS Trust and

Cygnus Healthcare

for failing to put

together a plan to

protect Kamil.

Barry was released

from mental health

detention on 6 July

2016 after being

sectioned for writing

34 notes threatening

to kill Kamil and

others.

"Seventy years—that's long

enough," seems to be the thought

behind his policies.

Saturday must be a launch pad

for much more serious resistance

to the Tories.

At some point, when she is no

longer useful as a shield and shock

absorber, prime minister Theresa

May will be dumped by the cabinet.

But that won't mean the end of

a regime of cuts, privatisation and

the deliberate deepening of racism

and division.

The next general election is not

scheduled until May 2022—nearly

four years away.

Imagine the damage to the NHS,

education and other vital services

if the Tories stay in office. Only

must be a reality" that really riled

Israel's supporters.

It's a reasonable demand.

Between 1947 and 1948 some

850,000 Palestinians were forced

from their homes in a process of

ethnic cleansing aimed at making

sure the new state of Israel would

have a Jewish majority.

That can be no justice for

Palestinians until those refugees

and their descendants are allowed

to return. Within minutes of

making his statement, Corbyn was

branded antisemitic by people

who claimed the right of return

would mean the end of Israel.

For Israel to exist as an

exclusively Jewish state, it needs an

ethnic majority.

That's the root of its many

policies that discriminate against

Arabs, and its insistence that

refugees can never return.

Supporting Palestinians means

calling this what it is—a racist

policy by a racist state.

Above all, it means continuing

to speak out in defiance of those

who want to silence Israel's critics.

Socialist Worker WHAT WE THINK

NHS FIGHT SHOULD SPARK RESISTANCE TO TORIES

IT WILL be great to see tens of thousands of people march for the NHS in London on Saturday. It's an active response to the desperate crisis of the NHS and a show of defiance.

Socialist Worker urges all its readers to join the march.

But it won't be enough to shake the Tories on its own.

Health secretary Jeremy Hunt has displayed an utter determination to stay in place to continue his destruction of the NHS.

"Seventy years—that's long enough," seems to be the thought behind his policies.

Saturday must be a launch pad for much more serious resistance to the Tories.

At some point, when she is no longer useful as a shield and shock absorber, prime minister Theresa May will be dumped by the cabinet.

But that won't mean the end of a regime of cuts, privatisation and the deliberate deepening of racism and division.

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scheduled until May 2022—nearly

four years away.

Imagine the damage to the NHS,

education and other vital services

if the Tories stay in office. Only

a revival in struggle—marches, strikes and occupations—can create a political storm strong enough to force the Tories out.

Most of us marching on Saturday will want to see Jeremy Corbyn in Downing Street as soon as possible.

But just waiting and preparing for the next election is not enough.

The greater the fightback now, the more likely it is that people will feel they should vote for Corbyn.

But more importantly, growing resistance can win some battles now over cuts, closures and sell-offs, and prepare the ground for bigger victories in the future.

If concerned about the NHS, you need to be angry about other issues too

A fightback can increase the pressure on whoever forms the next government, keep Labour to its promises, and resist if it breaks them.

But if you are concerned about the NHS then you have to also be active over connected issues.

Very soon US president Donald Trump is coming to Britain.

His vile politics are an inspiration and model for all the most rotten forces across the globe.

He showers money on the rich and bolsters the far right.

He describes the NHS as "broke and not working" and he wants to use trade talks to put up the price of drugs for the NHS and to allow US corporations to grab more of its work.

That's why everyone should try to be in London on Friday 13 July to protest against Trump, and the Tory government that welcomes him.

And the next day fascists who love Trump—and hate the migrants and Muslims whose work is part of the NHS's success story—are marching for Tommy Robinson.

Everyone possible should be on the streets against them.

FREEDOM FOR PALESTINE

AFTER WEEKS of onslaught against the right to criticise Israel, Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn still manages to speak out for Palestinians.

Corbyn has been touring refugee camps housing Syrian and Palestinian refugees in Jordan.

Corbyn promised that under his leadership

ANALYSIS

NICK CLARK



EU stands for the few, not the many

LABOUR'S LEADERSHIP is “walking a tightrope” to get the right position on Brexit. That’s what shadow chancellor John McDonnell told Labour supporters at an event in central London last Saturday.

His problem by now is familiar. Labour’s leadership has tried to satisfy those in the party who want to remain in the European Union (EU), while also seeking the support of Leave voters.

Where previous splits in Labour were so clearly driven by the resentful right, the divide over Brexit is not so obviously clear cut. At least not at first glance, anyway.

A number of Labour-focused campaigns describing themselves as left or “Pro-Corbyn, pro-EU” have recently been set up to call for Corbyn to back a second referendum.

A new group, Labour for a People’s Vote, wants the party to back a second referendum. And the “soft left” Open Labour faction, together with the Unison union, launched a pamphlet on “The Left’s relationship with Europe” at the same event McDonnell spoke at.

With contributions from former left wing Greek finance minister Yanis Varoufakis and TSSA transport union leader Manuel Cortes, it gives the EU a “socialist,” “internationalist” colouring. Both campaigns give voice to the mistaken view that the EU is—or can be—a progressive force.

Coming straight to the launch from a march against Brexit, Cortes dismissed as “a load of crap” claims that EU rules prevent nationalisation or state aid.

Labour MP Alex Sobel went further. He argued that a Corbyn government could not achieve its left wing manifesto promises “outside of the European family”.

They’re both wrong. The EU was set up as a capitalist trading bloc—and it will remain so. Membership of the EU depends on sticking to its pro-market policies.

So, for instance, even though an EU country could own a single rail company, rules demanding market competition mean it could never nationalise the entire industry.

Business

The truth is that everything the EU does is in the interests of big business and the bosses. The most revealing part of McDonnell’s discussion of the EU last Saturday was a claim that Labour’s position on Brexit was appealing to them.

“When I speak to the city managers, asset managers and bankers, they now see the greater element of stability for them both in terms of the long term future of the economy and investment—and on Brexit itself—comes from us rather than from the Tories,” he said.

This is when Labour’s dilemma over Brexit reveals the real, constant conflict in the party. Labour’s leadership doesn’t just have to satisfy its own right wing MPs.

It also has to pacify the bankers who threaten economic sabotage against a future left wing government.

Trying to find a balance between the bankers and Labour’s working class supporters is what causes the left to become undone.

Varoufakis tried to find a solution to end austerity in Greece and appease the EU at the same time—and was callously cast aside. He should have learned his lesson.

The EU was only interested in forcing ever-harder cuts on Greeks, and pressured the left wing Syriza government to do it.

McDonnell recalled how, during the referendum, he warned Labour MPs not to appear alongside Tories on Remain-backing platforms or else “you’ll be seen as the establishment”.

That warning could just as easily apply to campaigning alongside most of those leading the drive to halt Brexit today. Tens of thousands marched last Saturday for a second referendum on the terms of the Brexit deal. Among them were people who are anti-racist and anti-austerity.

But the direction of the campaign is pro-EU, which pushes racism and free market policies.

The alternative is to campaign for a real, left wing alternative vision for Brexit—one that promises nationalisation and a full defence of migrants’ and workers’ rights.

That’s the kind of Brexit the left should unite around to challenge the austerity-mongers who love the EU.

Workers shut down council over attacks on conditions

by SARAH BATES

A FOUR-DAY strike has brought huge sections of East Dunbartonshire council in the west of Scotland to a standstill.

Some 800 council workers struck between Thursday of last week and Monday of this week.

It was a response to bosses’ attempts to force through a series of assaults on the working conditions of Unite, Unison and GMB union members.

The council is jointly run by the Tories and Lib Dems.

Management want to steal three days’ annual leave, reduce the time when workers can apply for unsocial hours pay, remove enhanced overtime and reduce redundancy payments.

Impact

Simon Macfarlane, Unison organiser for East Dunbartonshire said, “Council staff are struggling with the impact of austerity.

“They have suffered ten years of real terms pay cuts and have stretched themselves physically and mentally to try and maintain vital services which have been cut to the bone.

“Enough is enough.”

The action follows a huge mandate to strike.

Unison returned a 93 percent vote for action, and Unite members voted for strikes by 95 percent in their ballot.

Workers are set to work



ON STRIKE in East Dunbartonshire

PICTURE: EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE UNIONS

to rule from Monday 2 July, meaning no overtime or cover for vacant shifts. All 63 schools and nurseries in East Dunbartonshire were closed as a result of the action.

Although teachers weren’t balloted to strike, schools were unable to operate without teaching assistants who were part of the walk out.

Bin collections, libraries, museums, art galleries and cemeteries were amongst other council services to be closed.

Hundreds of workers

joined one of the biggest rallies ever seen in East Dunbartonshire on the first day of action.

Vaughan Moody, joint council leader and leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats group, said, “I am very disappointed and angry that this strike has gone ahead”.

But Unite industrial officer Kenny Jordan said, “If there are efficiencies to be made, then they should be sought elsewhere and not from the hardest-working and lowest-paid workers.

“They are already stretched to the brink while trying to do their very best for the people of East Dunbartonshire.”

It is a disgrace for councils to say they are attacking workers in order to save public services.

Striking workers represent the real face of defending council services—not the Tory-Lib Dem administration making the cuts.

Got a story?
Email ideas to reports@socialistworker.co.uk

New battle by care workers against pay theft

SOME 120 care workers are striking against plans to wipe up to £1,200 from their pay packets.

Unison union members at Sirona care homes in Bath and North East Somerset (BNES) are walking out for two hours every other day in June. This follows a 24-hour strike on 6 June.

The workers, mostly women earning little more than the minimum wage, work in residential care.

Sirona bosses want to insert a 30-minute “unpaid break” into each shift. But as the shifts will be not extended, this will just amount to 30 minutes work “owed” to the company.

Carers will then accrue hours and work shifts



Sirona workers on strike

unpaid—and some workers will be liable for an extra 16 days a year.

Unison members refused to sign contracts to make the changes possible, and instead voted 95 percent for strikes.

Sirona bosses say they are forced to cut wages as BNES council cut £215,000 from their budget.

Bernedette Yea is a Unison shop steward and has worked as a night support worker at Sirona for ten years.

She said, “Despite caring for some of the most vulnerable people, we don’t feel valued. We’re using our only card left—a strike—to show the council and Sirona that we might be care workers—but we won’t go quietly.”



Hypocrites vote for the expansion of Heathrow

Activists and residents have vowed to fight on against the catastrophic runway plans, writes **Sarah Bates**

EXPANSION PLANS for Heathrow Airport in west London are one step closer to becoming reality after MPs voted to build a third runway.

Tories whipped their MPs to vote for the plans. And although Labour officially opposes the plans, the party allowed its MPs a free vote.

The vote for the £14 billion expansion was overwhelming—415 backed it while 119 opposed it.

It's a blow to activists who have campaigned for almost two decades to stop the runway.

John Stewart is chair of campaign group Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise (Hacan). "This is a decision that has put the interests of business ahead of the concerns for the environment and local residents," he told Socialist Worker. John argued there are still plenty of opportunities to resist the plans.

Mandate

"The government clearly feel they've got a strong mandate. But essentially all that's happened is Heathrow has been given the go-ahead to draw up the legal plans by 2019/20, which will still need to be approved by a planning inquiry."

Expanding Heathrow would be a disaster for local residents—the plans will mean demolishing some 900 homes.

Those left behind would be living on a construction site for a decade. And tens of thousands of people will be under new flight paths, with planes flying overhead for at least 13 hours a day.

Hypocrite foreign secretary Boris Johnson had previously vowed to "lie down in front of bulldozers". He avoided the vote by going to Afghanistan. Tory MP Greg Hands, who resigned last week as trade minister over the plans, blasted Johnson.

BACK STORY

Heathrow expansion will add to climate change as well as damaging the local environment

- Labour and Tory politicians say they are against climate change, but voted the runway through
- The Unite union leadership backed it because of the jobs that will be generated
- Unions should fight for jobs that don't harm the planet

"This is not just for me a debate about Heathrow, important though that is, it's also a debate about being true to your word and to your election pledges," he said.

During the debate activists from the Vote No Heathrow campaign held a "die-in" in the central lobby of Parliament.

One prominent Heathrow expansion backer is Unite union general secretary Len McCluskey, who welcomed "the opportunity to create hundreds of thousands of new jobs".

Devastation

But he shouldn't back job creation at the price of environmental devastation and climate change.

A coalition of councils and campaigners are preparing to take the government to court to stop the expansion.

Greenpeace UK executive director John Sauven said the organisation would take legal action. And London mayor Sadiq Khan said he would join the action, saying this week's vote was "the wrong decision for Londoners".

John said that Hacan is supporting the legal challenge and won't be giving up.

He said, "We'll be meeting with our members and supporters soon and I fully expect that opposition, protests and direct action to continue."

SCOTLAND

THOUSANDS JOINED the march in Stirling on Saturday

Scottish independence march keeps pressure on the Tories...and the SNP

SOME 15,000 people joined the latest march for Scottish independence last Saturday in Stirling.

Turnout surpassed organisers' expectations, continuing the trend seen at marches in Glasgow and Dumfries in the past two months.

Upwards of 70,000 have taken to the streets across all three.

A rally was held at Bannockburn on Saturday, the historic site of a battle between the armies of feudal lords over 700 years ago.

For some the history was the draw that brought them out and a lot of the press focused on a tiny minority in medieval dress.

Gathering

Organiser All Under One Banner (AUOB) had said it would be a gathering of the "Yes clans" to prove "that it is the people who are driving this movement".

It also said the march was "a key opportunity to highlight that our independent Scotland has evolved from medieval madness and will welcome refugees with open arms and never lock them up like animals in wire cages".

Anti-racism and opposition to Donald Trump's visit next month were popular.

But the biggest factor that swelled the numbers was the Tories' move at Westminster to retain devolved powers after

an independent Scotland and its Westminster MPs' walkout shining a light on the Tories' disdain for devolution.

This gets it the wrong way round and masks how unpopular the Growth Commission economic plan is among independence activists.

Confidence

Brown and the SNP leadership are running to catch up with the movement. The marches are building confidence among activists and putting pressure on the SNP leadership, which has had a mandate to push for another referendum since March 2017 when Holyrood voted for it.

Many in the movement grow restless. They want SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon to use that mandate and push for independence as soon as possible.

With more marches over the next four months, that pressure may become too much for her to

Anti-racists joined the march

Brexit. What little power the Scottish parliament has is under attack and this is fuelling the mood for a second independence referendum.

The "Tories out!" chant was as popular as it was in Glasgow and Dumfries. And as marchers snaked through the working class St Ninians area of Stirling, locals congregated on street corners to greet them or shouted support from their windows.

The new Scottish National Party (SNP) deputy leader Keith Brown attended. Last week he argued that the "tectonic plates are shifting" around the independence debate.

Credit for this, according to Brown, goes to the SNP's recent economic blueprint for

Protesters in Austria ruin racist, rich party

Some 5,000 anti-racists took an angry demonstration to the Austrian chancellor on World Refugee Day

AUSTRIAN RIGHT wing chancellor Sebastian Kurz faced furious anti-racist demonstrators last week.

Around 5,000 people marked World Refugee Day last Wednesday in Vienna by protesting against his attacks on migrants.

Some of them crashed his “summer party” at the opulent Palais Schonburg.

Kurz’s guests had to run a gauntlet of whistling protesters.

David Albrich is coordinator of the Platform for a Human Asylum Policy which called the protest. He said, “Today is all about protecting people who need to flee war, torture and terror.”

“The Austrian government tried to reinterpret that day into an anti-refugee event, but they did not succeed.”

“Thousands of people have thwarted them, and demonstrated for open borders and safe escape routes for people seeking protection.”

Activists from various refugee initiatives contributed to the protest as well as numerous refugees from Afghanistan and other countries.

Some unfurled colourful umbrellas as a sign of protection for refugees, others carried home-made signs and posters.

“We want to show that there are very, very many of us who stand up for refugees,” said protester Maria Mayrhofer.

Ariane Baron of the Ute Bock Refugee Project said, “We want refugees to be perceived as normal people again. With all their hopes, dreams and fears. What refugees need is the security of living in peace.”

“Right after that you need German courses, from the first day. And access to jobs.”

“Austria needs an active civil society! Austria needs solidarity.”

Kurz, who is in a coalition government with the fascist Freedom Party, recently proposed an “axis of the willing” with Germany and Italy. He hopes that it will push

BACK STORY

A coalition of the Tory OVP and the Freedom Party (FPO) has been in coalition since January

- The FPO has Nazis in it—and in January over 70,000 people marched against the coalition
- FPO leader Heinz-Christian Strache tried to sue revolutionary socialist group Left Turn Now
- He said their “Fuck Strache” was “insulting” to him
- The FPO has previously been in coalition with Labour and Tory governments

for restrictive border policies at a national and European Union level.

Last Thursday Kurz was in Budapest to attend a meeting of leaders from the four central European “Visegrad” states—Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

All have traditionally supported brutal policies on migration.

The Austrian coalition shut down seven mosques last week—and is now seeking deportation orders for 40 imams. Kurz said, “Parallel societies, politicised Islam or radical tendencies have no place in our country.”

It was meant as a racist threat to the 600,000 Muslim people who live in Austria. And the crackdown comes alongside plans to ban Muslim girls from wearing the hijab in some schools.

Kurz has said he intends to make migration a key theme when Austria takes up the EU’s rotating presidency at the beginning of July. He has been busy seeking allies for his stance. Anti-racists in Austria have pledged to keep up the fight against Kurz and racism.

Report based on Linkswende Jetzt article bit.ly/LW2506

On other pages...

Will everything be alt-right for racist Ukip? >>Page 17



MARCHING IN Vienna against Kurz’s attacks on refugees last Wednesday

PICTURE: CHRISTIAN VOLEK

Election win solidifies Erdogan’s rule

REcep Tayyip Erdogan claimed re-election as Turkey’s president on Sunday in a triumph for his tactics of repressing opposition forces and gagging the media.

Provisional and only semi-official results on Sunday suggested that Erdogan had taken about 52 percent of the vote.

This was just enough for him to avoid a second round run-off that could have threatened his continuing rule.

If he is confirmed as president, Erdogan will inherit increased presidential powers.

These include the power to issue decrees with the force of law, and to appoint the cabinet and vice-presidents, as well as

senior judges. In his victory speech he adopted an aggressive and threatening tone.

The candidate of the CHP right wing social democrats came second for president with around 31 percent of the vote.

The leftist and pro-Kurdish People’s Democratic Party (HDP) suffered many jailings of its activists and elected officials, and daily attacks during the campaign. Yet it reached the 10 percent threshold to win MPs.

By winning over 11 percent of the national vote it will have 67 MPs.

The HDP’s success means Erdogan’s AK Party will rely on the far right MHP for its parliamentary majority.

Claiming victory

FIGURE IT OUT

20 percent—the amount that the Palestinian Authority cut from civil servants’ pay in May

38 thousand workers only found out about the pay cut when they arrived at their banks on payday

44 percent of Gazans are unemployed—the highest rate in the world

PALESTINIANS IN the West Bank, Lebanon and Jordan have protested to demand that the Palestinian Authority (PA) lifts its sanctions on Gaza.

Hundreds of Palestinians in cities across the West Bank—including the administrative centre Ramallah—joined the protests. They are calling on the PA to reverse cuts

to its workers’ salaries in Gaza.

Riot cops and gangs of members of Fatah, which leads the PA, attacked protests in Ramallah.

Gaza is governed by the PA’s rival, resistance group Hamas.

The protests call on the PA to stop punishing people in Gaza as part of its dispute with Hamas.

Hamas was elected to lead the PA after elections 2006 because of its commitment to resisting Israel.

Fatah lost support after ending its resistance for futile “peace talks”.

It was forced out of Gaza in 2007 after failing to overthrow Hamas in a coup, but took control of the PA in the West Bank.

Palestinians rage at sanctions

Brexit—we won't pay

A REPORT released last week claimed that the cost of Brexit per household could be £1,000.

Maybe that's just scaremongering.

But, if it's true, then why should we pay when big firms make millions of pounds whatever the trade deals?

We shouldn't have to pay. Make the people who benefited pick up the tab.

Theresa Cummings
South London

New attack in Haringey?

COUNCIL TENANTS say that 2,500 homes at Haringey council's High Road West development in North Tottenham will more than double the maximum density permitted under Sadiq Khan's London Plan.

And council tenants whose homes are knocked down will be rehoused in a corner of a site behind a railway line.

The site was planned in 2014 for 1,200 homes, but now the council and the global developer Lendlease want to build more than 2,500.

The plan was to deliver a net residential density of 770 habitable rooms per hectare—already 10 percent higher than the London Plan's maximum.

The increase to 2,500 dwellings would mean 1,600 habitable rooms per hectare.

This is 128 percent above the maximum permitted density of 700.

Paul Burnham
North London

Universal discredit

UNIVERSAL Credit (UC) is now being imposed throughout Britain. It is likely to exclude many who need support the most.

Individuals will have to prove their identity by opening a "Verify" account, for which you need multiple forms of ID such as mortgage receipts.

It means those most in need could be unable to even apply for help.

UC has to be scrapped.

Duncan Brown
Glasgow



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

Just a thought...

Tory hypocrisy over cannabis

WE HAVE been told for years that cannabis is dangerous and addictive.

Now at least some Tories are having to admit that's false and it can be helpful and safe.

Labour needs to come out confidently for full legalisation.

Margaret Harris
East London

Banks fail the customers

HOW ON earth can the Royal Bank of Scotland justify closing branches when I had to queue for half an hour to be served today at their former head office branch in Edinburgh?

John Hein
Edinburgh

Keep private hands off NHS

THERESA MAY has promised the NHS an extra £20 billion a year by 2023.

Given the speed with which the Tories are privatising the NHS, why doesn't she just cut out the middle-man and give the extra money straight to the likes of Richard Branson's Virgin Care?

Sasha Simic
East London

Not cheering for England

AT THE school where I work we had a "dress up in red, white and blue day" for the royal wedding.

I refused to participate and wore a Shelter help the homeless T-shirt.

Now it's World Cup football fever and the same kind of flag-waving has reared its head.

But I don't believe in a national interest.

The far right is on the rise and attempting to organise around football fans—a victorious England team gives them confidence.

Tommy Robinson supporters revel in the patriotism that goes along with England victories.

Every time nationalism is given a boost it gives the racists a bit more confidence.

I will be happy the quicker England are on their way home and the bunting is taken down.

Julie
York

Where next in fight for justice after Grenfell anniversary?

A YEAR on from 72 avoidable deaths in Grenfell it's disgusting to see Theresa May and housing minister James Brokenshire appropriating the green heart badges, which have become a commemorative symbol of Grenfell.

They do not care about those lost lives and traumatised survivors. If they cared they would have actually helped the survivors. Instead, they are doing all they can to divert blame to firefighters and anyone else while the real culprits walk free.

And May has yet to fund the vital fire safety work needed around the country.

I am proud to have been part of bringing solidarity for Grenfell into Unison conference last week and raising the issue.

This Tory government pushed privatisation and cut funding for safety so as to allow unlimited profits for their friends. No to scapegoating us for their corporate failures. No justice, no peace!

Phoebe Watkins
North London

● WELL DONE to Socialist Worker for a brilliant report on the Grenfell Tower tragedy. Your report shows us that we can't forget the reasons why people died.

Like Hillsborough the state wants us to move on and forget what happened. We need to keep this social murder and those who caused it in people's minds.

Alan McShane
Croston



How do we get justice for Grenfell?

● SOCIALIST WORKER is right to highlight Boris Johnson's cuts to the London Fire Brigade when he was London Mayor (Socialist Worker, 13 June).

And he did not only make cuts in frontline fire cover.

The number of fire safety inspecting officers (FSIOs) in London has been reduced from 210 in 2008 to 156 today.

Most of these cuts were made on Johnson's watch.

An adequate number of FSIOs is essential if even a fraction of the thousands of high risk buildings in London are to receive a regular fire safety audit.

Over the same period Johnson and the Tories also cut the number of support staff. And there are only five FSIOs for the whole of Surrey.

The picture is similar in much of the rest of the country.

The Tory government rejected current London Mayor Sadiq Khan's

request for more funding for the London Fire Brigade in the aftermath of Grenfell.

Even the best fire safety legislation will not be effective if there are insufficient resources to enforce it.

Tony Phillips,
Branch secretary, London Fire Brigade Unison

● MARCHING PAST Parliament on the Justice for Grenfell demonstration recently made me think of all the Tory and Blairite MPs who sat on their hands.

They did nothing as construction standards and building control regulations were weakened. It meant companies such as Rydon, Celotex and Arconic could transform the tower into the inferno it became.

If by chance there is a hell, may they all burn in it.

Alan Gibson,
East London

● THE GUILTY must be named. What has happened to Hillsborough?

The culprits must not avoid jail. In the end it boils down to just four or five people at the top. Obfuscation must not rule.

Tony Webb
On Facebook

● IN LIGHT of the survivors of the Grenfell Tower fire demanding justice I shall quote from William Shakespeare's Macbeth, "Let grief convert to anger."

Will Counsel
Peterborough

A NEW WAVE OF PRIVATISATION

HEALTH BOSSES in England are trying to push through a dangerous new form of privatisation.

Several have set up "wholly-owned subsidiaries" to run their estates and facilities departments as a bridgehead to full-blown privatisation. At hospitals in Chesterfield, Leeds and Wigan, bosses are now trying to outsource hundreds of jobs to these subsidiaries.

The privately-registered companies are—for now—owned by NHS trusts. But workers transferred to them would no longer be on the NHS payroll.

This means bosses can, in the future, drive down their pay, terms and conditions. And they can hire new starters on worse contracts—driving down costs further.

The collapse of outsourcing giant Carillion forced bosses to change tack to push through privatisation.

Andrea Proudlock, a real estate lawyer at DAC Beachcroft, described the shift in strategy in a recent article. "The aim is that it starts to attract private sector experience into the company," she said.

"Surveyors with specialist skills, for example, wouldn't necessarily be attracted to an estates role in the NHS."

The wholly-owned subsidiaries will "start to attract that expertise, which could help drive up revenue and capital".

This will make the NHS run even more like a private business. Some health bosses see it as an opportunity to implement the Naylor Review, which called on trusts to let private developers manage their land.

Cutting the wage bill will make estates and facilities departments more attractive for private investors in the future. And down the line hospital bosses are likely to sell some of their shares, making them partly-owned subsidiaries".

Labour's shadow health secretary Jon Ashworth has promised to reverse wholly-owned subsidiaries.

Yet while Labour talks of "renationalisation" of the NHS, its manifesto only promised to make the NHS the "preferred provider" of health services.

The real solution is to abolish the internal market and kick out privatisers who are leeching off the NHS.

RACISM DAMAGES THE NHS

TORY CUTS and privatisation have caused the NHS crisis. But the Tories want to shift the blame onto migrants.

They are spearheading their racist assault by talking up "health tourism" to smear migrants as a drain on resources. The government brought in passport checks last October as part of Theresa May's "hostile environment" policy.

This forces migrants from outside the European Union (EU) to pay for non-emergency care.

The cost of this care adds up to just 0.3 percent of the health budget. The results of pilot scheme in London hospitals, pushed by health secretary Jeremy Hunt, revealed the real agenda behind passport checks.

Hospitals had asked 8,894 patients for two forms of ID—and refused only

50 people free care.

The idea of health tourism is a racist lie that encourages hospitals to question black and Asian people and people who "look foreign" who are using the NHS. And it's a step away from having a health service free at the point of need for everybody.

Hunt said the checks would make "chargeable patients make more informed choices about whether they continue to seek care in England".

Anti-racist campaigning and outrage after the Windrush scandal forced the Tories to make some retreats.

They performed a U-turn last month and suspended an agreement that forced hospitals to share patient data with the Home Office. This data sharing allowed the government to check patients' immigration statuses.

And Home Secretary Sajid Javid said last week the government would "relax" visa rules for migrant doctors and nurses. "Doctors and nurses play a vital role in society and at this time we need more in the UK," he said.

Admitting that migrants play a vital role in the NHS is a significant set-back for the Tories' racist scapegoating.

But the battle over who's to blame for the crisis isn't over. A YouGov poll at the beginning of the year showed that people's top concern is the NHS—but immigration was a close second.

BIG PHARMA PILFERS FOR ITS PROFITS

THE DRUGS industry exposes the deadly consequences of running health service for profit not people.

Pharmaceutical multinationals Pfizer and Flynn Pharma took the industry watchdog to court earlier this month—and won.

The Competition and Markets Authority fined them £90 million for hiking the price of the epilepsy drug phenytoin sodium.

They won an appeal against the watchdog and had the fine quashed.

A deal between the two companies in 2012 saw the price of the capsules rise from £2.83 to £67.50—almost 24 times the original price.

Pfizer had sold the British distribution rights for phenytoin sodium to Flynn Pharma. It got rid of the brand name and sold it as a generic product, so avoiding all NHS price controls for drugs.

The firms made big money, and

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE AT 70



TORIES CRASH NHS BIRTHDAY BASH

The NHS was launched 70 years ago but it now faces multiple challenges from Tories and bosses. Sarah Bates and Tomáš Tengely-Evans look at the attacks that threaten the service



ON THE picket line in Wigan where workers are fighting and attempt to farm them off to a wholly-owned subsidiary (left). The crisis in adult social care means many older and vulnerable people are worried about their future (below, left)

increase will see the current £115 billion budget rise to £135 billion by 2023.

It sounds like a lot—but it's only a fraction of the funding needed. And a source close to the Tories said the cash would only be promised if NHS bosses agreed to publicly welcome the deal.

Chief executive of NHS England Simon Stevens has previously blasted underfunding of the NHS. Earlier this month he insisted that at least 4 percent extra funding was needed to save the service.

Stevens described the Tories' announcement as "the funding we need to shape a long-term plan".

But after years of slashing public services, the Tories say some of the money is going to come from higher taxes.

Speaking at the Royal Free Hospital in London last week, Prime Minister Theresa May said tax rises would be done in a "fair and balanced way".

But nothing the Tories do is fair or balanced. And an increase in national insurance or income tax would hit poorer people much harder than the rich.

The money's there to properly fund the NHS—and it's in the pockets of the rich.

The total wealth of the richest 1,000 people in Britain is more than six times the entire NHS budget. They've got £724 billion—a new record, according to this year's Sunday Times Rich List.

Their rise in wealth since 2017, over £72 billion, would pay for nearly two thirds of the NHS budget.

the cost to the struggling NHS jumped from around £2 million to £50 million. Previously the watchdog found that Canadian firm Concordia overcharged the NHS by 6,000 percent for a life-changing thyroid drug between 2007 and 2017.

Big pharma also took the NHS to court last summer over the "rationing" of treatment and drugs. The government introduced a new cap on treatments in March.

The NICE medicines body rejected giving new drug abiraterone to men with prostate cancer last month because it wasn't deemed cost effective. It is thought to be able to extend life by 15 months.

Rationing is a disaster for patients—and must be opposed. But the solution is not to allow big pharma to overcharge the NHS.

The development and production of drugs should be taken out of the hands of the multinational corporations. Drugs companies should be publicly owned and geared towards meeting people's needs.

SOCIAL CARE ON THE BRINK OF COLLAPSE

IT'S NOT just the health service that needs huge investment—it's adult social care too. Thousands of vulnerable and older people face eviction from their care homes because the sector is on the brink of collapse.

A report earlier this month found that evictions from care homes have risen by nearly 40 percent in one year. Some 2,492 people had to be rehoused after their home closed.

There are higher death rates among people forced to undergo unplanned moves than those who aren't.

There will be a £2.3 billion funding gap in social care by 2020, according to the Local Government Association. And a Tory green paper this summer is unlikely to promise the funding that the sector desperately needs.

Cuts to resident care, home carers and outpatient facilities mean people stay longer in hospital than is medically necessary. It's one of the biggest pressures on the NHS.

Local authorities are raising spending on adult social care by 1 percent. But a legacy of cuts mean funding levels are still lower than they were in 2009.

Britain has an ageing

population—it's projected to have an extra half a million people over 85 by 2025. Yet a staggering 83 percent more care home businesses entered insolvency in 2017-18 compared to 2016-17.

Social care shouldn't be left to the whims of bosses who withdraw care if it's not turning enough of a profit for their liking.

It should be properly resourced and run alongside health services. Services should be built, funded and provided on the basis they are needed—not because they are lucrative for fat cat bosses.

TAX THE RICH TO SAVE THE NHS

TORY CHANCELLOR Philip Hammond this month announced £20 billion in extra funding for the NHS in England over five years.

A 3.4 percent average annual

CELEBRATE AND DEMONSTRATE SAT 30 JUNE

12pm Portland Place, London, W1A
Free, for all, forever - #OurNHS70



WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown.

Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

{ SOCIALIST WORKER }

BRANCH MEETINGS
Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

BARNESLEY

Marx@200—the revolutionary ideas of Karl Marx

Thu 12 Jul, 7pm,
YMCA,
Blucher St,
S70 1AP

BOLTON

1968—the year the world caught fire

Wed 25 Jul, 7pm,
Bolton Socialist Club,
16 Wood St (off Bradshawgate),
BL1 1DY

BRISTOL

Abortion rights—Where next for the struggle?

Wed 11 Jul, 7.30pm,
YHA,
14 Narrow Quay,
BS1 4QA

BURNLEY AND PENDLE

Socialist politics today

Wed 11 Jul, 7.30pm,
Red Triangle Cafe,
160 St James's St,
BB11 1NR

CHESTERFIELD

Is Marxism relevant today?

Thu 12 Jul, 7.30pm,
Chesterfield Library,
New Beetwell St,
S40 1QN

COVENTRY

Who are the DFLA and how can we stop them?

Wed 4 Jul, 7.30pm,
The Golden Cross,
8 Hay Ln,
CV1 5RF

DUNDEE

Imperialism today

Wed 4 Jul, 7.30pm,
Dundee Voluntary Action,
10 Constitution Rd,
DD1 1LL

EDINBURGH

Trump, trade wars and imperialism

Wed 11 Jul, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
7 Victoria St,
EH1 2JL

HARLOW

Catalonia—How can a republic be won?

Thu 12 Jul, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
1 Church Leys,
CM18 6BX

HUDDERSFIELD

What do socialists say about free speech and no platform?

Wed 11 Jul, 6.30pm,
Brian Jackson House,
2 New North Parade,
HD1 5JP

LEEDS: CITY CENTRE

What is fascism and how do we fight it?

Thu 12 Jul, 7pm,
The Swarthmore Education Centre,
2-7 Woodhouse Square,
LS3 1AD

LONDON: TOWER HAMLETS

Trump, Racism and the far right—how do we mobilise?

Wed 11 Jul, 7pm,
Epainos Church,
Lichfield Road,
Mile End
E3 5AT

LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

Clear and present danger—climate change in the age of Trump

Wed 11 Jul, 7.30pm,
William Morris Community Centre,
6-8 Greenleaf Rd,
Walthamstow,
E17 6QQ

LONDON: WEST

Islamophobia today

Thu 12 Jul, 7.30pm,
Woodlane Community Centre,
78 White City Cl,
Shepherd's Bush,
W12 7DZ

MANCHESTER: CENTRAL

Where does sexism come from?

Wed 4 Jul, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
6 Mount St,
Spinningfields, M2 5NS

MEDWAY

Labour and Brexit—what do we say?

Thu 12 Jul, 7.30pm,
Nucleus Arts Centre
272 High St, ME4 4BP

NORWICH

Marx@200—the revolutionary ideas of Karl Marx

Thu 12 Jul, 7.30pm,
Vauxhall Centre,
Johnson Place, NR2 2SA

OXFORD

Racism and resistance in Trump's America

Wed 11 Jul, 7.30pm,
Restore Building,
Manzil Way, OX4 1YH

SCARBOROUGH

What would a Corbyn government look like?

Wed 11 Jul, 7.30pm,
Tap and Spile,
94 Falsgrave Rd,
YO12 5AZ

SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE

The rise of the far right—what do we say about free speech?

Thu 12 Jul, 7pm,
Central United Reformed Church,
60 Norfolk St (near Crucible Theatre),
S1 2JB

WOLVERHAMPTON AND WALSALL

How best to stop a rise in racism, Islamophobia and the fascist right

Wed 4 Jul, 7.30pm,
Wild Bytes Cafe,
Darlington St,
WV1 4HW

YORK

Is socialism possible?

Wed 11 Jul, 7.30pm,
Sea Horse Hotel,
4 Fawcett St,
YO10 4AH

SOCIALIST WORKER

BRANCH MEETINGS

SOCIALIST WORKER BRANCH MEETINGS

Trump, racism and the far right How do we mobilise?

DONCASTER

Tue 10 Jul, 7.30pm,
Railway Hotel,
West St, DN1 3AA

EXETER

Thu 19 Jul, 7pm,
The Exeter peace shop,
31 New Bridge St,
EX4 3AH

GLASGOW

Thu 12 Jul, 7pm,
Avant Garde,
33-44 King St,
Merchant City, G1 5QT

HULL

Thu 19 Jul, 7pm,
Cafe licious,
104 Cottingham Rd,
HU6 7RZ

LIVERPOOL

Wed 18 Jul, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
22 School Ln, L1 3BT

LONDON: HARINGEY

Wed 11 Jul, 7.30pm,
St John Vianney Church Hall,
386 West Green Rd,
N15 3QH

LONDON: ISLINGTON

Wed 11 Jul, 7pm,
The Old Fire Station,
84 Mayton St, N7 6QT

LONDON: LEWISHAM

Wed 11 Jul, 7.30pm,
West Greenwich Community and Arts Centre,
141 Greenwich High Rd,
SE10 8JA

LONDON: NEWHAM

Wed 11 Jul, 7pm,
Stratford Advice Arcade,
107-109 The Grove (next to Morrisons car park),
Stratford, E15 1HP

LONDON: SOUTH

Wed 4 Jul, 7pm,
Vida Walsh Centre,
2b Saltoun Rd (near Effra Rd, facing Windrush Square),
Brixton, SW21 1EP

PLYMOUTH

Wed 19 Jul, 7pm,
Quaker House,
74 Mutley Plain,
Plymouth,
PL4 6LF

PORTSMOUTH

Wed 4 Jul, 7.30pm,
Somersetown Community Centre,
River's St,
Portsmouth,
PO5 4EZ

ROTHERHAM

Wed 18 Jul, 7pm,
Talbot Lane Methodist Church Centre,
Moorgate St,
Rotherham,
S60 2EY

SWANSEA

Thu 19 Jul, 7.30pm,
Brynmill Community Centre,
St Albans Rd,
Swansea,
SA2 0BP

TELFORD

Wed 18 Jul, 7.30pm,
Carriages, The Parade,
Wellington,
Telford,
TF11 PY

WIGAN

Thu 12 Jul, 7pm,
Little Fifteen pub,
17-19 Wallgate (opposite Wigan Post Office),
Wigan,
WN1 1LD

{ MOVEMENT EVENTS }

DORSET

Britain's dirty secret—the truth about immigration detention

Sat 14 Jul, 1.30pm,
Colliton Club,
Colliton Park, DT1 1XJ.

Hosted by Dorset Socialists

OXFORD

How do we stop the rise of the far right?

Tue 3 Jul, 7pm,
Michael Young Building,
Manzil Way,
Cowley Road, OX4 1YH.

Hosted by Stand Up To Racism

CONTACT THE SWP

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Wilde is the tragic prince in new film about his final years

A new release about the life of Oscar Wilde is testament to his wit and an attack on the callousness of the British ruling class, writes **Alistair Farrow**

ACTOR RUPERT EVERETT'S directorial debut is a moving tribute to Oscar Wilde which doesn't flinch from tackling a part of Wilde's life other accounts have shied away from. His last years are depicted in all their decaying splendour.

After his release from jail in 1897 Wilde arrives in northern France with a pseudonym, a new set of luggage and £800 raised by his friends and admirers.

Wilde's open relationship with the Lord Alfred "Bosie" Douglas infuriated Bosie's father, the Marquess of Queensberry, and the rest of the ruling class.

He was convicted of "gross indecency" after his attempt to sue the Marquess for libel failed. Same sex relationships were supposed to be shameful secrets hidden away—Wilde was shameless and had to be punished.

He was handed the maximum sentence—two years of hard labour.

During the credits we are reminded that in 2017 the 75,000 men convicted of the "crime" of homosexuality were "pardoned". The British state should have asked for forgiveness instead—and should have expected to have its request spat back in its face.

Jeered

One scene is particularly heart-breaking—Wilde is transferred from Wandsworth prison to Reading via public transport. During a half hour changeover at Clapham Junction he is jeered at and spat on.

Everett's Wilde describes that moment as the worst in his life. "I saw the future—the end of all peace."

The experience of prison robs him of the ability to write the plays and poems he was lauded for by high society. His wit stays with him until the end though. He describes his time in prison as, "One simply weeps and has diarrhoea. Result—lunacy."

His masterpiece, *De Profundis*, was a howl of grief and rage directed at the system that sent him to prison.

We see Wilde's nasty side as well. He lashes out at loved ones. His behaviour becomes increasingly self-destructive as he is shunned.

That all just adds to the tragedy of a great mind robbed of its creativity by the brutality of the state.

In one scene he and his friends are hounded through a French town by a gang of English homophobes. Wilde confronts them, "The natural habitat of the hypocrite is England! Go there and leave me in peace!"

The Happy Prince, named after a book Wilde wrote for his sons, makes for tragic and beautiful watching.

The Happy Prince is on general release

Photography



PICTURE: STETSASONIC IN 1988, TAKEN BY JANETTE BECKMAN

IN 1987, while British pop music was dominated by the coma-inducing sounds of Rick Astley and Shakin' Stevens, hip hop was getting busy planning global domination.

Within a year Run DMC, Public Enemy, LL Cool J, Eric B and Rakim and the Beastie Boys would conquer all—and from

that point on hip hop has ruled popular music.

This small exhibition pays tribute to the pioneers of this golden age when rap seemed genuinely revolutionary, and pays particular attention to the way the scene grew in Britain.

Stetsasonic (pictured above) are best known for their 1988 hit

Talkin' All That Jazz.

It was a defence of sampling techniques and written as a riposte to the overwhelmingly white, electric guitar-orientated, music press.

Yuri Prasad

Beat Positive. Getty Images Gallery, 46 Eastcastle Street, London, W1W 8DX Till 4 August, Free

In the Fade is a complex story of racism

IN THE Fade is a film filled with raw emotion. It gives a sensitive and realistic portrayal of Islamophobia and its consequences for the main character, Katja.

It begins with a prison wedding between a Turkish inmate and a German woman. We then see the Turkish man running an advice centre and the woman leaving their young son at the office while she sees a friend. Coming back later that evening Katja is confronted with police emergency lines and signs of an explosion, and learns that the advice centre was the focus of the blast.



Diane Kruger as Katja

The inevitable assumptions that this must be Islamist terrorism follows.

Suspects are charged with causing the explosion and the trial takes us through all the prejudices and slanders.

Dirty tricks and legal tactics defeat Katja but also expose allies and enemies within her family and from unexpected sources.

Links to Golden Dawn in Greece are revealed during the trial and the final section of the film follow her journey to Greece.

Her final choice shows the depths of

her despair and the brutality of the process she has been forced to endure.

I found myself asking what I would have done in Katja's place—we never can know until we experience an impossible situation. She is brave and is forced to make tough decisions during the film.

In the Fade is intensely emotional without lurching into sentimentality or schmaltz.

The racism which many people experience as a day to day reality is well depicted. Viewers will be left deeply moved but also extremely angry.

Claire Chandler

In The Fade, directed by Faith Akin, is on general release

BOOK

FROBISHER'S FIELD

by Chris Sutherland
Available at
bit.ly/FrobisherField
Free

FROBISHER'S FIELD tells the story of the 1986 residential social workers' strike in Norwich.

The privatising local authority, assuming an easy victory after the defeat of the miners a year before, are met with a militant campaign.

The author was involved in raising solidarity for the strikers.

He has made the book available as a free download.

PLAY

THE TOWN HALL AFFAIR

The Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London, EC2Y 8DS

IN 1971, at a time of massive social upheaval, a panel of well-known feminists and literary figures took to the stage of New York town hall to debate women's liberation.

The event was chaired by novelist Norman Mailer, who'd just published *The Prisoner of Sex*. It turned into a battle which pitted his arrogant sexism against



A scene from the play

the ideas, exciting and radical at that time, of the women on the panel.

Nearly 50 years on, experimental theatre company The Wooster Group recreate the event.

Performed

It's impressively performed with the actors delivering the words of the real life protagonists playing out above them on screen in perfect synch.

In this retelling the debate is seen through the lens of radical lesbian activist Jill Johnston.

Part of the Barbican's The Art of Change season, this production is more than historical curiosity. With a nod to contemporary questions of how to challenge offensive opinions, this is a timely shout out to the hard fought battles for women's rights, for control over our bodies and intellectual equality.

Michaela Loebner

ITALIAN POLICE wearing white coveralls used crowd bars to smash the windows of mobile homes at dawn last Thursday.

They were attacking a Roma camp called River Village on the outskirts of Rome. They sealed off the area, evicted residents and destroyed homes.

The new Italian government's racism is not just rhetoric.

The consequences of the state harassment and racism are stark. For instance, an arson attack destroyed the camper vans of a Roma family in Turin in May.

Inside were two women and four children. They had previously been thrown out of a state camp by the police.

Denisa woke up the other woman who slept in the camper and together they rushed out with their children.

"What hurts most is that there were so many boys laughing and filming the scene," said Denisa. "We are human beings too."

A Facebook group about the family was clear in its threats. One post read, "It is time for the population to do what the institutions do not do."

Another read, "Gas tank is the answer."

Italy's interior minister Matteo Salvini is fuelling these flames. The leader of the League party said he would conduct a census of Roma people—as a prelude to expelling them.

"And Italian Roma? Unfortunately, we have to keep them," he said.

Strategy

After criticism Salvini said, "I'm not backing down, and am going forward. Italians first and their security."

It evoked memories of the racial laws against Jews and the Roma by Benito Mussolini's fascist government 80 years ago.

According to Rosi Mangiacavallo, Italian representative of the European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC), "Salvini is building up hate against Roma. This could lead to violent acts."

Salvini in the past has promised "to take a bulldozer and flatten all the Roma camps".

Luigi Di Maio—leader of the League's coalition partner the Five Star Movement (M5S)—said a census on an ethnic basis was not constitutional. So "we can't do it," he said. Which isn't exactly reassuring.

According to ERR, "Every single camp which has ever



Activist Marcello Zuinisi (pictured) said EU funds didn't produce "even an aspirin" in the Roma camps

been 'closed' to date was forcefully evicted. Its inhabitants have been left on the street or moved to segregated shelters.

"Di Maio and Salvini's radical new solution for the so-called 'nomad issue' is to continue feeding into harmful and discriminatory stereotypes."

"And then if all else fails, they will just drive them out."

The League took 17 percent of the vote in the March elections—only about half of the 33 percent won by M5S.

But Salvini's ministry controls the police and the handling of migrants.

His strategy is to grandstand to keep moving the government to the right—and it is working.

The latest polls show that the League is now the most popular party in Italy with 30 percent public approval.

It has overtaken for the first time M5S, which stands at 29 percent.

Salvini recently refused to allow a ship that had rescued hundreds of migrants from the Mediterranean to dock at Italian ports. His coalition partners backed him.

Santino Spinelli, one of Italy's best-known Roma musicians, said, "Now that the interior minister had closed Italy's ports to people escaping war and famine, he was trying to increase his popularity by hunting Gypsies."

ITALY: WAR ON ROMA

Interior minister Matteo Salvini wants to draw up a list of Italy's 180,000 Roma—before expelling thousands of them. Simon Baskett spoke to activists resisting the clampdown

According to Rosi, "Roma and migrants are an easy target for right wing Italian parties and for the League in particular."

The census call was a deliberate threat. Rosi told Socialist Worker, "Using Roma as scapegoats is very easy for Salvini because of the widespread prejudices and stereotypes against them."

Some are made up of shipping containers, many have no running water or electricity.

To enter many you have to pass a police checkpoint.

In Italy there are between 120,000 and

180,000 Roma. "But the most visible part is the 26,000 Roma living in camps."

"The Roma in Italy are victims of housing segregation. Some of these camps were built by the state."

The formal camps are distributed in 87 different towns and cities across the country.

In Rome there are 17 camps of which just six, including River Village, are formally recognised.

In 2008 they proposed a Roma register and the collection of fingerprints from all of the Roma camp inhabitants, children included.

It was never implemented.

Rosi told Socialist Worker, "The rest of Roma people not in camps living in Italy often do

here. You'd feel suicidal."

Hasimi says it is hard to find work. "They ask you where you're from and when you tell them you're Roma they tell you they won't hire you," he said. "It's racism."

Decree

The camps are owned by the state following a law by a previous League interior minister.

A "nomad emergency decree" forced people into the state camps.

In 2008 they proposed a Roma register and the collection of fingerprints from all of the Roma camp inhabitants, children included.

It was never implemented.

There were 230 forced evictions operations against the camps during 2017. We are

not reveal their identity for fear of widespread racism against them.

"Most of the Roma are invisible and therefore so are their lives and their opinions."

Elena Risi is part of Roma human rights organisation Associazione 21 Luglio. "Unfortunately politics about Roma people has always been discriminatory," she told Socialist Worker.

"The main discrimination issues faced by Roma people living in Italy are housing segregation and forced evictions."

"According to our research 43 percent of Roma living in camps are Italian, the others are stateless."

"There were 230 forced evictions operations against the camps during 2017. We are



A Roma census has evoked memories of the Italian fascists' racial law

Racist interior minister Matteo Salvini

white coveralls used crowd bars to smash the windows of mobile homes at dawn last Thursday.

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"And then if all else fails, they will just drive them out."

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But Salvini's ministry controls the police and the handling of migrants.

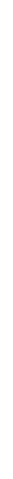
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The League took 17 percent of the vote in the March

Is everything going to be alt right for racist Ukip?

Alt right figureheads and racist street movements coming into Ukip could mean a revival for the struggling party, writes Tomáš Tengely-Evans

 **SUPPORTERS OF JAILED NAZI** Tommy Robinson are fighting over the corpse of Ukip in the hope of resurrecting it as the party of the British far right.

High-profile online figures on the alt right have joined Ukip in recent weeks.

For instance Paul Joseph Watson of US-based far right conspiracy website InfoWars announced he had joined to "take over it in a soft coup".

If this is successful, it could take Ukip in a different political direction. Its new joiners' agenda goes beyond elections.

Like many figures on the US alt right, the likes of Watson gained a mass online audience through alt right news websites or YouTube channels.

Now they want to build a far right movement on the streets—and will spend serious cash to make it happen.

InfoWars founder Alex Jones—who claims US Democrats and communists are secretly organising a "white genocide"—donated £20,000 to Robinson. It has likely helped Robinson fund his far right rallies.

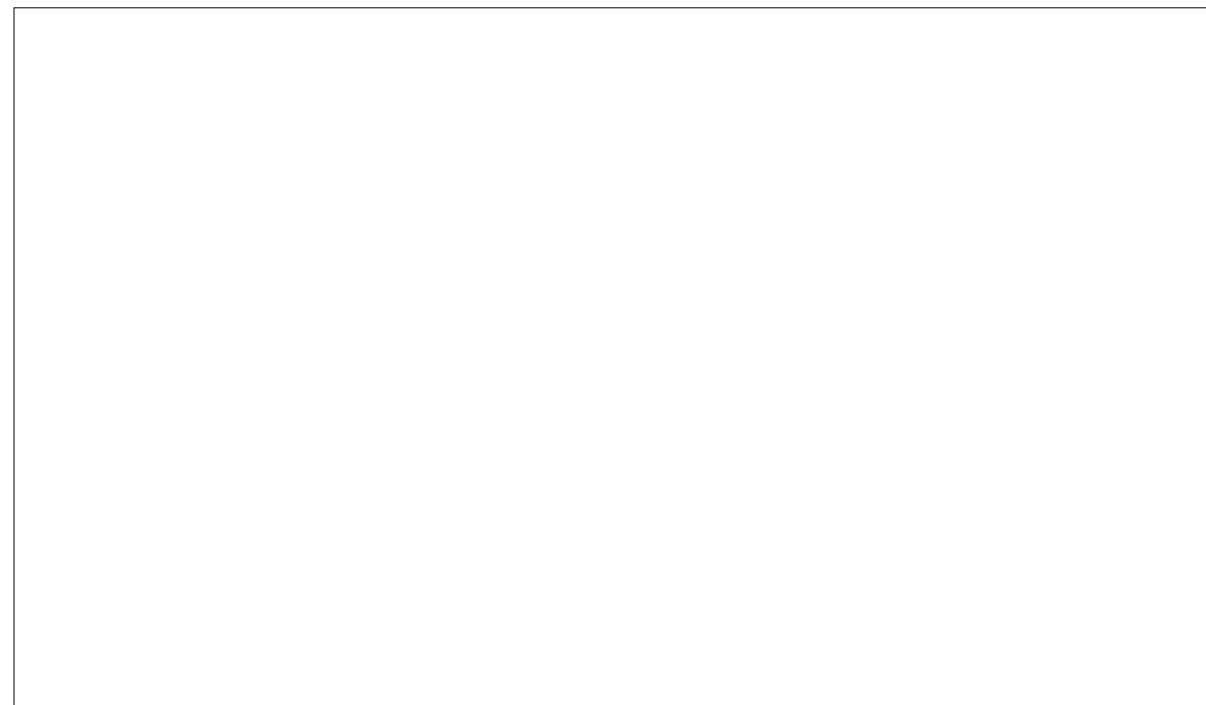
Other Robinson supporters who've joined Ukip include internet personalities "Count Dankula" and "Sargon of Akkad" (see top right).

Changes

These changes in Ukip largely flow from the party's electoral decline.

Anti-racist opposition and infighting meant Ukip was already on the down before the vote to leave the European Union in 2016.

And by positioning the Tories as the party of a right wing Brexit, Theresa May was able to win back many Ukip voters.



UKIP LEADER Gerrard Batten smiles alongside Nazi Tommy Robinson

Facing wipeout in the local elections in May, Ukip's latest leader Gerrard Batten looked to emerging racist street movement Democratic Football Lads Alliance (see box).

Senior party figures began speaking at protests organised by the racist street movement.

At Robinson's free speech rally last month, Batten told the crowd, "If you want to defend your country then you have to organise politically."

"I would like you to join Ukip."

And since Robinson's jailing, Batten has thrown his lot in with the fascists. At a 15,000-strong "Free

Tommy" rally earlier this month, Batten asked a baying crowd of and racist thugs to "join, support and vote Ukip".

His identification with Robinson means that some fascists see Ukip as a potential home.

And the demonstrations indicate that Ukip's membership is changing too.

The stuffy racist old men don't go on the Robinson rallies. Instead there's a new crop of well-heeled youth waving Ukip flags and wearing party pin badges.

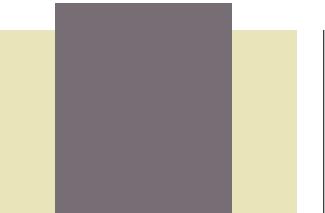
These developments don't mean

that Ukip will now inevitably become a fascist party or see renewed electoral fortunes.

While Batten appeals to far right street thugs, his aim is still a party focused on elections.

Other far right parties, such as Anne Marie Waters' Ukip-breakaway For Britain, are competing for support on the streets.

But the alt right's turn to Ukip points to a dangerous development—that the renewed far right street movement could look to building an electoral wing. Anti-racists have to be ready to respond to it.

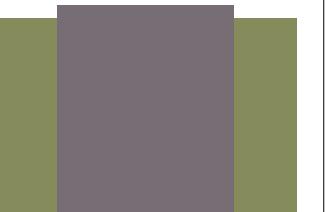


 **MARK MEECHAM**—a YouTube "comedian" known as Count Dankula—is another new Ukip member. Meecham was fined £8,000 in March for teaching his dog to give the Nazi salute whenever he said "Sieg Heil" or "Gas the Jews".

He spoke at Tommy Robinson's rally last month.

Carl Benjamin, who goes by the YouTube moniker "Sargon of Akkad", soon followed Meecham into Ukip.

He is another prominent Robinson supporter who made his online name attacking the Black Lives Matter movement and feminism.



 **RAHEEM KASSAM** is a key mover behind the lash up between Tommy Robinson, the US alt right and Ukip.

Kassam started out on the right wing of the Tory party. At university he was a Conservative Future board member and supporter of Islamophobic group Student Rights. But Kassam joined Ukip and quickly became Nigel Farage's chief strategist.

After Farage quit, Kassam shifted further right and co-founded right wing website Breitbart London.

Website attempts to publish anti-racist's address

 A LEADING local member of Ukip in Scarborough is targeting socialist and anti-racist campaigner Kim Hunter for getting a far right event cancelled.

Tim Thorne published a picture of Kim with an address beneath on the right wing website North Yorks Enquirer.

It said, "If you notice any refugees in need of urgent assistance send them Hunter's home address."

Due to a blundering case of mistaken identity

by Thorne, this was actually the address of a former Lib Dem council candidate who has nothing to do with Kim.

Kim told Socialist Worker, "Thorne's intention is not to be accurate, but to intimidate people."

If marauding fascists throw something through the window, it's because this website has given them a nod and a wink."

Stand Up To Racism supporters organised to stop right wing internet

dweller "Sargon of Akkad" from speaking at the Scarborough Spa venue on Saturday of last week.

Kim said, "He calls himself a 'liberalist' or 'centrist' and poses as a commentator of the stupidity of politics. Yet he only speaks at far right rallies."

She added, "There was a shit storm after the event was cancelled, with people demanding their money back."

After that the North

Enquirer article is further

its piece targeting Kim. The same website includes a gushing report by Thorne from the demonstration in support of Nazi Tommy Robinson earlier this month. Kim said that building anti-racist activity is "seriously important for individuals to be safe from this sort of campaign. "Otherwise you get isolated."

The North Yorks

Enquirer article is further

and racist populists are working together.



 THE Democratic Football Lads Alliance (DFLA) are the bridge between the fascists and Ukip's leadership.

The DFLA has increasingly tied itself to Ukip.

Tommy Robinson has gone from being formally rejected on their demonstrations to the group's main focus.

Tim Thorne thought he had published anti-racist Kim's address

IN BRIEF

Big No to Scottish councils' pay offer

GMB UNION members in local government in Scotland have delivered a "clear and resounding" rejection of the local government pay offer. Some 92 percent of workers who voted in the ballot rejected the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities' (Cosla) offer for workers in local government.

It would mean a 3 percent increase for workers earning under £36,500 and 2 percent for those earning more.

Some 30,000 workers were consulted.

Huge vote to derail Sheffield tram deal

DRIVERS AND conductors on the trams in Sheffield have delivered an overwhelming mandate to strike over pay.

Over 200 Unite union members voted by 92 percent for strikes on an 83 percent turnout.

They are fighting against a two-year offer that would see workers get a mere 26p an hour pay rise.

Undertakers want to bury Co-op plans

UNDERTAKERS working for Co-op Funeralcare in Scotland face redundancies and massive pay cuts.

Some 200 workers could be affected and some are set to lose between £7,000 and £10,000 if cuts go ahead.

The Usdaw union is set to ballot workers on the proposals.

Cleaners fight to sweep away poverty

CLEANERS AT Kensington and Chelsea town hall in west London have voted for strikes over pay.

They are paid £7.83 an hour by the employer, Amey. They are demanding at least the London Living Wage of £10.20 an hour.

Other demands include sick pay.

The workers are in the United Voices of the World union.

Shetland could see a Total shutdown

MEMBERS OF the Unite union at Total's Shetland gas plant have voted to take industrial action over working patterns.

Unite said members had "emphatically" voted for industrial action.

Pumps may run dry if tanker drivers stop

HUNDREDS OF drivers working for Hoyer UK—a firm that delivers fuel from Grangemouth refinery to filling stations across Scotland—are considering strikes.

The dispute centres on pay cuts.

The Unite union has given bosses 14 days to think again.

HOUSING PROTEST



SOME 100 people protested against the development of the Elephant and Castle shopping centre in Southwark, south London, on Thursday of last week. They want more social housing built. The next meeting of the planning committee is set to take place on 3 July. Details of the next protest at bit.ly/Elephantile

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

UNISON UNION CONFERENCE

Revolt against union leadership at Unison

by SARAH BATES

THE UNISON union national conference erupted in chanting and cries of "democracy" last Wednesday after union leaders tried to quash revolt over a controversial motion.

During the first two days of conference delegates railed against "Theresa May and her friends" smashing up public services and privatising the NHS and social care.

There was also discussion on Brexit, low pay, and transgender inclusion.

In the "Reshaping and resourcing our union" motion, Unison's national executive committee called for a "thorough strategic review" of the union and its finances.

But many delegates were worried the review was about taking resources from local branches and the motion was heavily defeated.

Structures

Jon Woods from Portsmouth told Socialist Worker in a personal capacity, "I think everybody agrees the union structures need reviewing—the question is who does the reviewing."

"Conference showed that delegates don't trust the full time officials to do that reviewing."

"The danger is that the review will be done in the interests of full time officials."

Much of the discussion reflected concerns that Unison headquarters wouldn't provide regions with support when they needed it.

After a show of hands vote, the conference chair said the motion had passed.

But delegates rose to their feet and demanded a recount through a more formal card



DELEGATES SHOWED they wanted justice for Grenfell

vote based on the number of members that delegates represent. The result was conclusive—690,044 against the motion, with 394,990 votes for it.

Fighting racism was an important part of the conference. General secretary Dave Prentis said it was "at the heart" of Unison.

He warned that there was "no room for complacency—the battle against racism never ends."

FRINGE MEETING

280 meet to fight austerity

ON THE first day of conference over 280 delegates packed into a Fighting Austerity fringe meeting, hearing from strikers and Labour shadow chancellor John McDonnell.

Michael Purcell is from Wigan, where health workers are fighting against privatisation. He said, "Hands off our jobs, hands off our terms and conditions and hands off our NHS."

McDonnell said that a Corbyn government would

"invest in our public services—we're going to end the cuts, invest in healthcare, education and restore the fabric of civilised society."

Mandy Buckley is a senior shop steward for Unison home care workers in Birmingham who are preparing to restart strikes.

She said, "We are low paid women workers. If we can do it then anyone can do it."

●More online.
Go to bit.ly/SWUnison18

FRACKING

No welcome for the Ineos fracking plan in Derbyshire

OVER 100 anti-fracking campaigners from North Derbyshire and beyond gathered outside Chesterfield Assembly Rooms last week.

They were there for the opening session of the Planning Inspectorate's public inquiry into Ineos's scheme for exploratory drilling for fracked shale gas at Marsh Lane in North East Derbyshire.

Shale gas multinational Ineos, owned by billionaire Jim Ratcliffe, is appealing the decision taken by Derbyshire County Council earlier this year to refuse them a licence to drill.

The opening session of the inquiry saw local residents argue that it should take into account the long term cumulative impact of the proposed development on the local community.

And they said it should look at the impact of the development on wider environmental and climate issues. If the outcome of the



Protesting against Ineos

inquiry was based on the power of argument and the views of the local community, Ineos would not stand a chance.

However Tory planning regulations skewed the whole process in favour of big corporations. A recent inquiry into a similar proposal at nearby Harthill in South Yorkshire found in favour of Ineos.

Whatever the outcome of this inquiry, the campaign against the frackers will need to continue and step up a gear.

James Eaden

PRIVATISATION

Let's have genuine public control of the rail network

THE MAIDEN voyages of the new publicly-owned London North East Railway were beset by delays and protests.

Demonstrations called by the RMT transport union greeted some of the first services on the line—which links Scotland and the north east of England to the capital.

The new company is the result of a franchise takeover by the Tories. Tory transport secretary Chris Grayling bought out the East Coast Main Line from transport firms Virgin and Stagecoach.

They were supposed to pay the government £2 billion to run the franchise until 2020, but are now not liable.

A consortium of firms is now running the service on behalf of the government.

Protests were held in Edinburgh and London to demand the rail networks be brought properly back into public ownership.

And a protest was also held in Manchester on Tuesday of this week as Grayling was due to address the Royal Transport Summit, but he didn't show up.

It follows three days of strikes hitting Arriva Rail North (Northern) on 19, 21 and 23 June.

The action is part of the dispute over the future of guards and safety.

Workers want a guarantee that a second safety trained member of staff will be on board at all times.

HOUSING

A RESIDENTIAL tower block in Haringey, north London, has been evacuated after it was found to be in danger of collapse.

A second block was also found to be unsafe but is yet to be evacuated.

A lobby of the council over the rehousing of residents was set to take place on Tuesday as Socialist Worker went to press.

All the buildings on the estate were constructed using a large panel system.

That's the same technique that resulted in the 1968 collapse of Ronan Point in east London, killing four people.

Local elections in May saw a new, left wing Labour leadership elected in Haringey.

Jacob is a resident of Tangmere block, which has been evacuated.

He said of Tuesday's council meeting, "Nothing in the agenda pack indicates any serious possibility that an equivalent number of council homes would be built on the site at equal rents if demolition occurs."

Haringey lead councillor for housing Emina Ibrahim said, "A decision on the long-term future of these blocks will be taken only after proper consultation."

SCHOOLS

Teachers' strike can stop academy scam

by MIRIAM SCHARF

NEU UNION members at the John Roan secondary school in Greenwich, south east London, took their second of seven planned days of strikes on Tuesday.

The Regional Schools Commission wants the school to join a new academy chain, the University Schools Trust.

NEU rep Kirstie Paton said, "Why should we hand over our school, which has been in public hands for 341 years, to a trust that's only two years old?"

The first walkout last Wednesday saw a lively picket line. Teachers brought solidarity from six other schools.

Newham NEU secretary Louise Cuffaro brought the message from the east London borough that the fight against academisation can be won.

And NEU president Kiri Tunks told pickets that the union would support them all the way.

The teachers want the school to stay within local authority control.

A recent Ofsted inspection that deemed the school inadequate has not given the new school leadership a chance. Staff have questions about



SOLIDARITY POURED onto the picket line at John Roan school

PICTURE: GREENWICH NUT

why so many posts have been left unfilled, leaving the school reliant on short term supply workers.

Previously John Roan had a good record on behaviour and with support could achieve this again.

Parent Colin held a placard reading, "Ofsted—not fit for purpose."

Parents have launched a campaign to challenge Ofsted

in the courts. Perhaps the key to the rush to academise lies with the Joan Roan Charity Trust, which has more than £14 million in its property and securities portfolio.

The campaign to save John Roan from academisation has the support of parents, councillors and local Labour MP Matthew Pennycook.

NEU joint general secretary Kevin Courtney was due

to speak at a public meeting alongside others on Tuesday evening.

Workers plan to strike again this Wednesday, Tuesday and Thursday of next week and on 11 and 12 July.

GMB union members at the school are also balloting for strikes.

Send messages of support to johroannut@gmail.com

HIGHER EDUCATION

Fight for democracy rages on in university union

A RECALL congress of the UCU union will go ahead—and will debate motions critical of general secretary Sally Hunt.

The union's national executive committee (NEC) accepted this last week.

The right of the NEC closed down the union's congress in May when delegates voted to discuss motions criticising Hunt. The motions came after Hunt backed a deal to end pensions strikes in over 60 universities earlier this year.

The deal removed an immediate threat to the USS pension scheme, but gave no long term guarantees over its future.

UCU staff have now withdrawn any suggestion that disruption would take place at a recall congress.

This means delegates will be able to discuss motions 10 and 11, which call for Hunt's resignation and for her censure.

Shift

The shift is a direct result of the power of the rank and file activists in the union who won arguments in branches.

No one at the NEC meeting last week reported on any UCU branch that voted against debating the motions.

But the debate over democracy in the union is not over. Two motions, one calling for a democracy commission and another calling for an independent inquiry into the original congress, are being hijacked by the right.

They want to reassert control over the union. Neither motion was aimed at preventing members' control over the union, but they are being interpreted in this way.

So the democracy

commission is being set up with calls for a "root and branch" rewriting of structures, rules and procedures. The aim is to bring in "experts" who back the right, not activists with real knowledge of building strikes and branches.

There is a real danger that anti-democratic rule changes could flow from this unless members fight to keep control.

These battles were also clear at the UCU's higher education special sector conference in Manchester last Thursday. The original aim was to make the Joint Expert Panel (JEP) that is looking at the USS pension scheme transparent and accountable.

The same spirit of the strikes was in the room. But disturbingly a set of motions on JEP transparency was ruled out of order.

The conference passed motions demanding that the JEP model alternative valuations of the scheme to the one USS had imposed.

It voted against any consideration of Collective Defined Contribution schemes by negotiators of the JEP. These transfer more risk to workers.

Delegates also passed a motion calling for bi-annual delegate meetings to review JEP progress. They backed a consultative ballot of workers to relaunch the dispute if progress is deemed inadequate.

There was discontent that only two and a half hours was allocated for the event. Five motions fell off the agenda.

But the meeting strengthened union members' ability to hold the JEP and union negotiators to account.

Carlo Morelli

FUNDING CUTS

Union leadership gives go ahead for hardest-hitting strike at local school

by PAUL McGARR

TEACHERS AND support workers at Langdon Park School in Tower Hamlets, east London, were considering a new offer from management as Socialist Worker went to press.

The NEU members had been set to strike on Wednesday and Thursday.

They are fighting an £800,000 cuts package—10 percent of the budget.

It could see 18 jobs—nine teachers and nine support staff—axed. And many workers also face pay cuts and increased workload.

This week's planned strikes were called following a 96 percent vote in an

official ballot. Support workers are split between the NEU and Unison unions. Unison is balloting for strikes. The NEU initially gave notice for eight days of strikes—two days this week and three in each of the following two weeks.

But NEU members were worried the dispute could drag out and unanimously voted for much more hard hitting action. A delegation of staff met with NEU national officers of the union and convinced them to increase the action.

If this week's 48-hour warning strike does not produce an acceptable outcome, NEU members will strike from Tuesday of next week continuously until

just before the end of term in July. This is the hardest hitting action the union has called in a school dispute. The school has a significant outstanding loan to the borough. Its insistence that the school has to repay this within four years is massively increasing the scale of the proposed cuts.

Longer version online

THERE WAS a carnival atmosphere as parents joined the picket lines at Springfield School in Birmingham last Thursday. The NEU union members are striking for three days every week against a restructuring package.

Solidarity messages to david.room@neu.org.uk

EAST SUSSEX

Fight for equal pay hots up in Sussex

TEACHERS IN Sussex plan to escalate their fight over pay.

A strike on Wednesday of this week will see a walkout by NEU union members at seven schools. And a three-day walkout from 3 July will involve 12 schools.

Many teachers in East Sussex are paid less than teachers elsewhere,

including in nearby Brighton and Hove. NEU members at five schools have already struck for two days earlier this year.

Phil Clarke is secretary of the Lewes, Eastbourne and Wealden NEU.

"The government is disgracefully underfunding schools," he said. "However

it is a false economy to underpay teachers."

"This will only make worse the teacher recruitment crisis and is damaging our students' education."

Go to socialistworker.co.uk for a full list of striking schools. Send messages of support to phil.clarke@neu.org.uk

CONNAUGHT SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Council calls for Inner London pay rates

NEU UNION members at Connaught School for Girls planned to strike this Wednesday over pay.

Workers at the privately-run academy in east London have taken 12 days of strikes so far in a fight for Inner London pay as an Outer London school.

They passed a motion last week that welcomed the

council's pledge to campaign for Inner London pay across Waltham Forest.

The motion added, "We have no intention of allowing the campaign to fade away.

"However we are willing to postpone our next planned day of strike on condition that these positive words are accompanied with deeds."

The motion called for the council to set a date for a borough-wide mass rally and a mass lobby of the Department for Education in autumn.

Workers are committed to further escalating action next term if no progress is made.

Messages of support to pablophilips2007@yahoo.co.uk

END TRUMP'S RACIST RULE

As Donald Trump's policies lock up migrants and their children, we all need to take to the streets when he makes his visit to Britain, writes **Alistair Farrow**

RACIST US president Donald Trump was forced into a tactical retreat over his anti-migrant racism last week—then ramped up his war on migrants further.

US immigration policies have ripped 2,300 children from their parents who were held as undocumented migrants at the US-Mexico border.

Where those children are now is not clear—most have not been reunited with their parents.

Trump dropped the separation policy in the face of huge anger, and protests involving tens of thousands of people across the US.

But Trump has not backed down far.

A US Navy memo leaked last week revealed plans to build camps large enough to detain up to 120,000 migrants arrested at the border.

The Department of Defence last Thursday announced four new camps on army bases to increase detention capacity by another 20,000.

That gives an idea of the scale of Trump's racist crackdown.

Criminals

Trump's move will also create more problems. His "zero tolerance policy" means that undocumented migrants are treated as criminals.

They could then be detained in federal prisons—but it is not yet clear what will happen to their children.

Thousands of people demonstrated in San Diego on Saturday.

In Fort Wayne, Indiana, activists protested outside a meeting given by racist attorney general Jeff Sessions.

Protests took place in dozens of other towns and cities, including ones along the border between the US and Mexico.

More protests were set to take place this Saturday.

Protesters blocked a bus



A PROTEST in New York against Trump's racist attacks on migrants

carrying immigrants in McAllen, Texas. Coinciding with the protest, some Democratic politicians visited a detention centre near the town.

"In terms of reunification, I have zero—zero—understanding that anyone has been reunited with their parents," said Congressperson Jackie Speier from California.

Democratic senator Elijah Cummings said, "We all should be able to agree that in the United States of

America, we will not intentionally separate children from their parents."

However, while opposing separation, the Democrats introduced a bill which would have meant families were to be detained together.

Just as activists are maintaining pressure on Trump in the US, so can people in Britain.

Big protests will send a message that Trump is toxic. It will give US activists extra confidence to fight back.

Many establishment figures in Britain who object to Trump's attacks support anti-migrant policies in Britain.

Britain has some of the most brutal rules governing people's ability to move here.

Families are broken up and made to jump through hoops to see each other.

At least 15,000 children in Britain are growing up without both parents because government policy prevents families reuniting unless their parent already living here

earns above £18,600.

That means some parents are locked out of the country.

That's another reason why protesting against Trump when he comes here is important.

The most important protest is on Friday 13 July in London.

It will be an opportunity to send a message to Trump that he's not welcome—and to strike a blow against the Tories' racist policies.

FIND A PROTEST

ALL ON Friday 13 July unless otherwise stated

● BIRMINGHAM—5pm. Waterstones, B4 7SL. Coach to London, go to bit.ly/MidsTrump

● BRISTOL—5PM, 12 July, Water Fountains, BS1 1SR. Coach to London, go to tinyurl.com/briztrump

● CAMBRIDGE—5.30pm. Kings Parade, Cambridge, CB2 1SP

● CARDIFF—5.30pm, 12 July. Details TBA. Go to bit.ly/CarTrump

● CHESTERFIELD—coach to London. Email TUCChesterfield@gmail.com

● DUNDEE—5pm, City Square, DD1 3BY

● EDINBURGH—12 noon, Saturday 14 July, Scottish parliament

● EXETER—6pm, Bedford Square, EX1 1GD

● HULL—Go to bit.ly/HullTrump

● LONDON—2pm, Portland Place, W1A 1AA

● LIVERPOOL—5pm, St George's Pl, L1 1HL

● LEEDS—5pm, Leeds Art Gallery, LS1 3AA

● MANCHESTER—5pm, Albert Square M2 5DB

● NEWCASTLE—coach to London. Email suttnewcastle@gmail.com

● NORWICH—coach to London. Go to bit.ly/NorTrump

● OXFORD—coach to London. Go to bit.ly/OxTrump

● PLYMOUTH—coach to London. Go to bit.ly/PlyTrump

● SHEFFIELD—coach to London. Go to bit.ly/SheffTrump

● STOURBRIDGE, WALLSALL, WEST BROMWICH and WOLVERHAMPTON — coaches to London. Email membership.westmids@unitetheunion.org